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EFFECTS OF DIVING ON THE HUMAN BODY.

JOHN WILLIAMS, private, Royal Sappers and Miners, aged 26, of great strength and activity, but addicted to habits of intemperance, has been employed during the last two summers on the wreck of the *Royal George*, at Spithead, as a diver, and is considered one of the most expert workmen. On the morning of the 11th July, 1842, clothed in his submarine armor, he was engaged at the bottom of the sea, at a depth of eighty feet from its surface, in fastening an iron chain round a block of wood, that was imbedded in the stiff mud; which task, after an hour's labor, he had just completed, when the flexible tube that supplied him with air suddenly burst above water, with a loud hissing noise which was distinctly heard at the distance of fifty fathoms.

While the divers are employed in their laborious search under water, the utmost vigilance is exercised by those on the deck of the hulk, to prevent or remedy anything that might endanger the diver's life, or interrupt his operations. The persons, accordingly, who were stationed at the air-tube and life-line, by which the divers are assisted in their ascent, immediately perceived the accident that had happened, and one of them closed the hole in the tube with his hand. Williams was promptly hauled up, but his armor got entangled in the heavy rope-ladder by which the divers descend, and he and it were pulled up together, in the space of about a minute and a half from the occurrence of the accident.

On removing the helmet from his head, blood was seen running in a stream from his ears, nose and mouth. His face and neck were swollen and discolored; he looked faint, but was sensible. In this state he was conveyed to the hospital, where he arrived in an hour after the accident. His face then was one mass of lividity; his neck was excessively swollen, bloated, and suffused with livid-colored blood. Dark patches of ecchymosis that did not coalesce existed over the clavicle and shoulders, with intervening spaces of skin of the natural color. The lower part of the neck, which had been covered with the flannel and India-rubber dress, was mottled black and white; the dark ecchymosis being raised in lines, with slight streaks of white skin interposed. The livid discoloration of the face extended upwards to, but did not pervade, the hairy scalp, where it terminated abruptly; nor were any spots seen below that part of the chest which was covered by the helmet. The lining membrane of the cheeks, under the tongue, over the fauces and pharynx, as far as the eye could reach, but especially over the tonsils, was black with ecchymosis.

The conjunctivæ, where they are uncovered by the eyelids, and particularly round the margin of the corneæ, were turgid with black blood. He vomited some blood before he reached the hospital, and he afterwards made occasional efforts to vomit, apparently from the accumulation of blood in the fauces, which blood he now and then expectorated. The hæmorrhage had ceased from the nose and ears, which were still covered with clotted blood. He was perfectly sensible, but seemed drowsy; pulse 76, of natural strength; breathing interrupted by frequent, deep, involuntary sighs.

—Lieut. Hutchinson, who was present when the accident happened, and who accompanied Williams to the hospital, said that the swelling of the face and neck had much increased, and the lividity much deepened, during the hour that had elapsed since he left the hulk.

In the course of the same day, the lividity of the nose and point of the chin vanished, and those parts resumed their natural color. The color of the face too became much paler in proportion as the vessels recovered their freedom and diameter; but there were large patches of extravasated blood in the eyes, mouth, face and neck, which could only be removed by the tedious process of absorption. On his admission warmth was applied to his extremities; some warm tea was given him, which he swallowed with the greatest difficulty; he had a turpentine enema; and in the course of the day twenty ounces of blood were taken from the arm. The following morning a senna draught was prescribed, which has been occasionally given since. He has complained of occasional headache and dimness of sight, from which he is now free. The swelling and ecchymosis of the face and neck have daily diminished; and these parts have now attained their natural size and color, showing that they were swollen on his admission to twice their natural size. The ecchymoses under the conjunctivæ were very tardily absorbed, and minute clots were visible for three weeks around the union of the cornea and sclerotic coat.

A similar accident occurred, under the same circumstances, about twelve months ago, to private Roderick Cameron, of the same corps, whose head, neck and eyes were discolored in the same way; an account of which has been read before the British Association by Dr. Richardson. When Cameron was hauled up on the hulk's deck, he had lost all consciousness, and was in a state of apparent asphyxia, from which he soon recovered. A little blood only escaped from his nose; and none from his ears or mouth. At the expiration of a month, the ecchymoses under the conjunctivæ—that remained the longest—had disappeared; and undaunted by the perilous accident which had jeopardized his life, he returned to his work as a diver, which occupation he still fearlessly follows. Williams, too, is still undismayed by his frightful accident, and he has resolutely returned to pursue his adventurous life, feeling confident that the prudent application of those precautions which are now well known will secure him from danger.

An accident somewhat analogous, as far as I can make out the facts, occurred to a diver at the wreck of H. M. S. Thetis, in South America, who, with a companion, had descended in a diving-bell. In this case, also, the air-tube burst, and one of the men immediately extricated him-

self from the diving-bell, and rose to the surface of the water unhurt. The other man, by some means, got entangled, and was some time in freeing himself from the bell, which he at length accomplished by the aid of his companion, who again descended for the purpose. When he reached the surface of the water he was much exhausted, and his face and body were blackened with ecchymosis down to the waist. This discoloration gradually went off in the course of a month, the blackness of the balls of the eyes being the last to disappear.

These curious and strikingly similar effects of the same kind of accident at Spithead seem to arise from the sudden removal of the compressed air, and the consequent exertion of the pressure of the superincumbent water on those parts of the body which are not covered by the unyielding helmet. It is calculated, in round numbers, that the pressure of water on Williams's body, at the depth of his submersion, at the time of the accident, was nearly equal to the weight of three atmospheres, which pressure was counteracted, and the equilibrium preserved, by throwing air through a forcing pump, of great power, along a flexible tube, into his helmet. This supply of air is steadily kept up, by constant regulated pumping, during the whole time the diver is under water; and until the centre lens of the helmet is opened on deck. The quantity of air thrown along the tube into the helmet far exceeds what is required to sustain easy respiration and the equilibrium of pressure; but no harm can result from any additional quantity of air that may be forced in; inasmuch as the superfluous air readily escapes into the sea, by a valve in the helmet, and is seen constantly bubbling up on the surface of the water. When the tube burst, and the air escaped from the helmet, this equilibrium of pressure and resistance was destroyed. The head was protected by the strong helmet, which did not collapse, from the pressure of the circumambient water, which now acted on the rest of the body with a force equal to two atmospheres, and produced a feeling, as he expressed it, as if he had been crushed to pieces by his dress. The blood thus driven from the extremities and from those parts of the body that were not covered by the helmet, was forced into the vessels of the head and neck (as it is into a part of the skin placed under a cupping-glass) some of which blood remained in the vessels and disappeared in a few hours after the accident; but a large portion was extravasated in the loose textures into which it had been forcibly driven.

Six divers have been employed during the three last summers, on the wreck of the *Royal George*. They have now nearly succeeded in clearing it away, and the anchorage has been, in part, restored to its former security, with fewer accidents, and none of them fatal, than it is likely would have occurred in similar operations, during the same space, above water. The value and importance of these operations, and the extent to which they may be applied in recovering treasure, or in the destruction of important works on an enemy's coast, are still imperfectly understood, but General Paisley has satisfactorily established that these sub-aqueous operations may be accomplished at any ordinary depth, with ease and safety, by men who are not professed divers, and who have not been trained up from their infancy to the art. The divers engaged at

the Royal George have been selected from the corps of Royal Sappers and Miners, whose characters and abilities as steady men and good workmen were known to their officers; but only some of those so selected have become good divers; for the effects of protracted submersion are so different in different individuals, that it is not every man who can follow the perilous life of a diver. Many experience intense pain in the ears, and bleeding at the nose, during their descent: and Lieut. Hutchinson, who ably conducts the operations on the Royal George, always experiences these sensations, and he has never been able to remain under water for any length of time. Those who are accustomed to dive successfully, never suffer any such inconvenience, and I cannot learn that they experience any very marked uneasy sensation, unless an occasional sense of nausea or distension at the stomach, headache and rheumatism; but they all agree that they are much weakened and wasted by the exertion, and, as they express it, are not the men they were when they began the occupation. I have not had sufficient experience to determine whether it renders them permanently unhealthy or short lived.

The diving season commences in May and ends in October, and the divers are usually employed eight or ten hours in the twenty-four. No scene can be more striking than the activity that pervades the hulk during the immersion of the divers. The busy groups of pumpers, on whose regulated exertions the lives of the divers depend; the deep groanings of the air-pumps; the anxious care that the men stationed over the hulk's side, with the air-hose and life-line in their hands, bestow on the preconcerted signals, by which the divers communicate their wants with the precision of speech; the turbulent agitation of active ebullition, that is occasioned by the forced escape of the compressed air through the sea; the dreadful plunge and rapid disappearance of the enormous and unwieldy mass in this boiling cauldron; the eager look of expectation and vague apprehension, with which the spectators gaze on the whole process, exceed in interest anything I have ever witnessed.

The divers remain under water, according to the nature of their work, from half an hour to three hours; and although, in order to accelerate their descent, they are heavily laden, with ponderous shoes and large leaden weights on their shoulders, constituting a dress of a hundred and thirty pounds weight, they move about nimbly at the bottom of the sea, and feel and work as lightly as if they had nothing on their shoulders and feet.

Mr. Richard Tilston has kindly made a very correct drawing of Williams's appearance when he was brought to the hospital; to which he has added a faithful picture of him, in his working dress, at the time the accident occurred, in order to convey a notion of his mode of groping his way under water, with his pricker in one hand and dog in the other. In these submarine expeditions the divers frequently encounter each other. On one occasion, three of them, from two different hulks, met, joined hands in a circle, and gave three hearty cheers at this triumph of the art of diving. On other occasions, however, their meetings are less friendly; disputes arise as to their claims to particular logs of wood, quarrels ensue, in which their large iron prickers play the part of single-sticks.

Nothing can exceed the spirit and industry with which these operations have been conducted, or the laudable emulation displayed by the workmen to excel each other in the quantity of work they severally perform ; and nothing has occurred to damp their ardor until lately, when Corporal Jones, one of the most courageous and useful divers, met at the foot of his ladder a dead body, which produced such a shock that he immediately ascended in the greatest possible alarm ; and spoke as if he had encountered a supernatural being. Unsuccessful attempts were made to rake the body up from below ; but a few nights afterwards it was brought up by Corporal Harris, the most intelligent and persevering of the corps, on his prick, without his knowing what he had got hold of. His consternation when he reached the surface, and found that it was a dead body, was so great, that he could not go down again, and he was replaced by another diver, who not having felt his horror was not unwilling to descend.

The divers are employed four hours at a time during the slack tide of low water, and in that space they usually descend about four times. On their ascent after an hour's submersion, they appeared to me, while they were leaning against the hulk's side, to be pale, languid and exhausted, though they did not admit they were fatigued. When they reach the top of the ladder, the centre lens is unscrewed, their ponderous helmet is taken off, and they are generally allowed ten minutes to recruit, while the wood they may have collected is drawn up by a crane. They can only work two hours, at the slack tide of high water, in consequence of the strength with which the tide ebbs and flows at that period ; which, they say, begins earlier, and runs with much more rapidity, at the bottom than at the surface of the sea, and which would carry them off their legs. They are also sometimes interrupted by storms, that would prevent their signals from being understood by those who attend the air-pipes and life-lines on the hulk's deck.

The divers are clothed in flannel dresses, that fit closely, which retain the warmth of the body and prevent the chill that might be produced by the soaking of the water through the seams of the India-rubber dress. This dress is protected on the outside by a canvass covering, from any injury it might sustain by rubbing against the nails or ragged pieces of the wreck.

We know little of the effects produced by the respiration of compressed air, but the divers find that they can breathe easily at the bottom of the sea ; they can sing readily, but cannot whistle. They converse with each other by shouting at the top of their voice, which they can hear in a whisper.

Each diver is paid, besides his regimental day-pay of one shilling and three-pence, two shillings a tide, working three tides in twenty-four hours.

Since the occurrence of Williams's accident, each diver has been furnished with a safety valve, placed between the end of the air-pipe and the helmet. The air being forced in from the pump, opens the valve, and passes into the dress, but the moment this pressure is removed, the valve closes and prevents any air in the helmet returning through

the pipe. This contrivance, however, I fear, in the event of an accident, would only substitute suffocation for that of being squeezed to death.—*Letter from Mr. Liddell, in the Medico-Chirurgical Review.*

#### A CASE OF COMPRESSION OF THE BRAIN.

BY JOHN R. WILSON, M.D., OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

NANCY, 32 years of age, the servant of Wm. H. Robertson, Esq., of Rutherford County, during the seventh month of her sixth pregnancy, was attacked with severe pain in the left side of the head, involving the temple, eye, &c., and with pain in the lumbar region, but not severe; her bowels were costive, tongue furred, pulse full and strong, appetite capricious. I bled her freely from the arm, administered a dose of castor oil, had a cold wet towel applied to her head, which had more than ordinary degree of heat. I visited her next day and found all the symptoms somewhat relieved; ordered light diet, and a repetition of the oil when necessary to prevent constipation. This course enabled her to pass her time with only an occasional recurrence of pain in the left side of her head, to which she said she had been subject many years, until about three weeks after the birth of her child, at which time I was called to see her again, and found her suffering from pain as in the first attack, with but little arterial excitement, surface cold and clammy, tongue much furred, left eye slightly inflamed, no appetite, tinnitus aurium, and bowels confined. An emetic of ipecac. was administered at noon, 15 grs. blue pill ordered at bed-time, to be followed by a dose of oil next morning. During the next morning I visited her again; the oil had operated, but every symptom was worse—a hard tumor, circumscribed and slightly elevated, was discovered on the left side of the os frontis, near the junction of the parietal bone; there was strong, full pulse; hot skin; occasional aberrations of mind; intolerance of light, and jactitation. I bled her copiously, but without any relief of pain; gave 20 grs. of calomel, shaved the tumor, and ordered oil in six hours, with warm fomentations to the tumor and temple. I visited her next day and found all the symptoms better except the pain in the tumor, in which she complained of severe pain and throbbing. I applied a blister plaster over the tumor and administered a dose of senna and salts. Next day the blister had drawn well, and the tumor being now soft, I opened it by a large incision, when it discharged a considerable quantity of purulent matter. An emollient poultice was applied, and directions were given to repeat it, with a view to keeping the orifice open.

For two days after the opening of this tumor the patient appeared relieved. On the third day she became extremely restless and unable to sleep, with want of feeling in the right hand and arm, which gradually extended to the lower extremity of the same side. During the ensuing night complete paralysis of the right side took place, attended with laborious breathing and stupor. The patient returned no answer, that could be understood, to any question asked; pulse slow and oppressed, but regular. A free crucial incision was made through the tumor, and on

examination a portion of the pericranium was separated from the skull, and a small hole was discovered sufficient to admit the end of a probe through the first table of the bone, but no further. The trephine was applied immediately, and as soon as a portion of the bone had been removed, four or five ounces of purulent matter were discharged. This was in a short time followed by a return of the power of distinct articulation and of a correct sense of hearing, and the patient was soon able to answer any question asked. The bone had lost its natural appearance as far as the dura mater was detached, which was to some extent, and several crowns of the trephine were taken out, so as to remove as far as possible all the diseased bone, which resembled wood of very hard texture, irregularly worn-eaten. The dura mater had a dusky red appearance. Simple dressings of the ordinary kind, with gentle laxatives and light diet, soon enabled the patient to recover her health, which has continued without much interruption up to the present time—a period of more than fourteen years. I would further remark that the patient had not received any mechanical injury on the head, but was of a family disposed to scrofulous diathesis, some of her brothers having died of that disease.—*Western Jour. of Med. and Surg.*

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#### CANCER OF THE STOMACH AND PANCREAS.

DR. PEPPER read the report of the following case to the Pathological Society of Philadelphia.

Michael D—, aged about 50, entered the Pennsylvania Hospital June 30th, 1842.

The patient stated that he had been sick for five months, and that his physician considered his disease to be an affection of the kidneys; the history of his previous symptoms was, however, very imperfect, and could not be relied upon. The day after admission, he presented the following symptoms. Pulse frequent and feeble; tongue red and smooth; no appetite, and occasional vomiting of a greenish fluid; urine scanty and high colored; insomnia, with frequent moaning; complains of pain in the lumbar region, and tenderness of the abdomen on the slightest pressure. He is much emaciated, and has the peculiar straw-colored tint which attends the cancerous cachexia. An immoveable tumor, apparently two inches in diameter, could be distinctly felt behind the umbilicus.

The long duration of the disease, and its evidently malignant character, rendered it highly probable that but little benefit could be derived from any course of treatment: small doses of morphia were administered with the view of relieving pain, and allaying the irritability of the stomach—bowels opened by laxative enemata—diet restricted to gruel.

The following day, July 2d, Dr. Stewardson took charge of the patient, and he was not again seen by me until July 30th; at which time he presented the following symptoms. Bowels obstinately constipated; frequent vomiting of a brown and very offensive fluid; tumor behind umbilicus evidently increased; emaciation extreme, and yellow tint of skin more marked.



Notwithstanding the frequent use of laxative and terebinthinate injections, his bowels could not be moved; and the irritability of the stomach was such, that neither medicine, nor nourishment in any form could be retained.

Died August 3d, thirty-five days after admission into the Hospital.

When the stomach and intestines were elevated, a large tumor was brought into view; commencing near the spleen, it extended across the spine to the concavity of the duodenum, and was evidently formed by the pancreas in a state of scirrhus degeneration. The disease was not, however, confined to this gland, but extended to the adjacent parts; the crura of the diaphragm, and the commencement of the psoas muscle on either side, but more particularly the left, were converted into a grey indurated mass; and the left portion of the root of the mesentery also formed a part of the scirrhus tumor.

The abdominal aorta, ascending cava, and the mesenteric vessels and nerves, were surrounded by the same indurated tissue; the vertebra appeared perfectly natural; several convolutions of the small intestine adhered to the diseased mass, and were in part obliterated.

The absorbent glands of the lesser omentum were enormously enlarged and indurated, several of them being at least two inches in diameter.

The anterior face of the stomach, extending from the lesser to the greater omentum, was from one fourth to half an inch thick, and much indurated; and, excepting the sub-peritoneal cellular tissue, the different coats of the stomach were converted into a white homogeneous mass. The mucous membrane was ulcerated for about three inches in extent, and covered with fungoid granulations; near the pyloric extremity, and extending into the duodenum, this membrane was minutely injected and thickened.

Kidneys and other abdominal viscera healthy. An indurated mass, about an inch in diameter, and resembling scirrhus, was situated in the centre of the left lung.

Origin of aorta somewhat dilated, but not, perhaps, more than is frequently seen in persons of an advanced age.

The diagnosis of scirrhus of the pancreas is often rendered very obscure by the intimate connection between this gland and other more important organs; thus, the head of the pancreas, when much enlarged, presses upon the duodenum, or obstructs the ductus communis choledochus; causing vomiting, jaundice, and other symptoms which are generally attributed to disease of the stomach or liver. The only positive sign of this disease, is a deep-seated tumor immoveably fixed behind the umbilicus; whereas, the tumor which generally attends scirrhus of the pylorus, is moveable, more superficial, and situated above and to the right of the umbilicus. The two diseases are not unfrequently combined, through the medium of the lymphatics or by direct adhesion, and the above distinction, therefore, loses much of its importance.

Judging from the morbid appearances in the above case, it is by no means improbable that the disease first commenced in the stomach; and thence, by means of the lymphatics, extended to the pancreas and adja-



cent parts, producing the pain in the loins and functional disorder of the kidneys, so much complained of by the patient.

It is well known that in cancer of the stomach, the matters vomited are frequently very offensive, and that the constipation is also very obstinate; but in the present instance there was fecal vomiting, and constipation such as is rarely seen except in cases of mechanical obstruction. Both the above symptoms are fully explained by the adhesion of several of the convolutions of the intestines to the scirrhus mass.—*Medical Examiner*.

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#### TREATMENT OF RHEUMATISM.

[A RECENT German work on rheumatism, by Dr. Greiner, is noticed in the October No. of the British and Foreign Medical Review. We copy some of the remarks on the external treatment of the disease.]

The *external* means to be employed in rheumatism are divided in the same way as the internal, namely, into those which act directly and indirectly on the nervous and vascular systems respectively. Among those which are alleged to act directly on the nervous system, are the following: magnetism mineral and animal, electricity, galvanism, Perkinism, acupuncture, insolation, cold, heat, hot vapor, hot iron. Of both mineral and animal magnetism the author entertains very moderate, and therefore, in our opinion, very just expectations. The former sometimes has relieved temporarily, but seldom or never effected radical amendment. A rather more favorable report is given of electricity and galvanism. Perkinism, an American invention or discovery—as the reader may please to consider it—consists in stroking the affected part alternately with an iron and brass needle; a hundred times with each needle separately, and then two hundred times with both together. This operation renders the skin red; but the author does not state whether this effect be not entirely due to the force of the manipulation. It appears to have dropt into disuse. Acupuncture is more confidently spoken of by the author. Both foreign and British (Copland) authorities are adduced in its favor. It is more particularly suited to local rheumatic affections of neuralgic type or complication. Insolation, which is said to act “purely and universally on the nervous system, and to operate as a vital principle in nature, favoring, by constant desoxydation, the plastic of organic life,” may be useful with other means. Cold and heat, applied more particularly by the medium of water, are noticed, and their advantages and disadvantages correctly discriminated. Cold applications in rheumatism are to be very cautiously resorted to; since cold and moisture are the principal exciting causes of the disease; and, if unskillfully employed, are exceedingly apt to cause metastasis on inward organs. Cold is more particularly indicated in merely local rheumatism of a neuralgic type. As a general prophylactic against that peculiar sensibility of the cutaneous nerves to changes of temperature, which often predisposes to rheumatism, cold is highly useful when employed by sponging with cold water, followed by frictions. Heat is a more safe

and more frequently-indicated means. After the first stage of acute rheumatism, it allays pain and soothes both nervous and vascular excitement. In the chronic form of the disease heat acts as a salutary stimulant of the depressed nervous system, and excites the arterial capillaries. The warm water may be impregnated with stimulant or anodyne substances, as may be necessary. Care is to be taken not to persevere in the use of warm applications beyond the proper time, as thereby debility and a tendency to lymphatic tumefaction may be caused. Vapor-baths, with camphor, alcoholic liquors, sal ammoniac, red-hot iron, the moxa, are noticed; but the peculiar cases in which these measures are eligible or justifiable are not at all, or are not clearly pointed out. We merely add, that, as further *external* means of *directly* affecting the nervous system, all the narcotics formerly enumerated may be employed as outward applications.

At p. 188, the indirect external means of operating on the nerves are discussed. These are subdivided into three classes: first, those, such as pitch and mustard plasters, which immediately act on the cutaneous nerves, producing in the dermoid tissue a peculiar modification of its secretory action, or else some other change which by sympathy reaches the inmost and central parts of the nervous system. Secondly, terebinthinate, balsamic, and alcoholic liniments and plasters, which stimulate both the nervous and sanguineous systems, and influence the processes of secretion and excretion. Thirdly, those means, such as the preparations of mercury and antimony, which correct the derangements, at once, of the sanguineous and nervous systems, and produce, through absorption from the dermoid tissue, specific discharges.—(P. 195.)

At from p. 198 to 202, inclusive, sea-bathing, native, mineral, and simple domestic and medicated baths, are considered. Great efficacy is justly ascribed to several of the German spas, and the subject is sensibly though briefly discussed. Diet and regimen occupy from 202 to the end. Diet is truly stated to be a matter of great importance in the treatment of rheumatism, since by means of it, both nervous derangement and sanguineous dyscrasy may be moderated or removed. The author divides diet into the austere, the antiphlogistic, the nourishing, the exciting, and the specific. The circumstances in which the first four descriptions are indicated will easily suggest themselves to the reader. The specific diet consists in the use of saccharo-mucilaginous vegetables, such as strawberries, currants, grapes, carrots, turnips, gruels of barley and groats, cresses, radish, horse-radish, &c. This section concludes with some remarks on the use of wine, which requires caution, but may be permitted to the old, feeble, and cachectic. Regimen, or the manner of life of the rheumatic subject, should be arranged on the general principle of maintaining the nervous system at the highest tone that can be attained without the use of over-stimulation: this end is to be accomplished by regular exercise, avoidance of fatigue, and the use of all the measures already enumerated.

## SURGICAL CASES AT THE ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

*Dr. March's Surgical Clinique, November 26, 1842.*—1. MISS M. C., aged 17, of Greenbush. This was the case of necrosis of the tibia presented at the previous cliniques. The ulcer was found to be rapidly filling up with healthy granulations. Pulv. sanguinariï and lint were applied, and the poultices ordered to be continued.

2. Mr. P. W., aged 40, with chronic indolent varicose ulcers of 12 years' standing, just above the internal malleolus of both legs. The veins of the left leg were excessively enlarged. Dr. M. described the mode of operating for the obliteration of varicose veins; and stated the local and constitutional remedies proper in cases of this character.

3. Mr. C. S., aged 34, of Bethlehem, with pterygium of both eyes. It was extirpated, and nit. arg. applied.

4. Mr. C. McC., aged 22, of Westerlo. Four weeks ago this patient was attacked with severe, deep-seated pain in the globe of the right eye. The patient is unable to see an object placed directly before the eye, while objects so placed as to be viewed from the outer part of the pupil, are distinctly visible. Vision is the most distinct in a dim light. From these circumstances, Dr. M. pronounced the case to be a congestion in the central part of the retina. An emetico-cathartic was ordered, and the right temple cupped.

5. C. W. B., aged 8, of Coeymans, with a scrofulous ulcer on the cornea of the right eye, attended with conjunctival inflammation of one year's standing. Nit. arg. was ordered locally, and hydri. potas. as a constitutional remedy.

6. Mrs. P. O'B., aged 30, with granulation of the palpebral conjunctiva. Nit. arg. in substance, was applied.

7. A. I., aged 9. The operation for strabismus was performed on the left eye of this patient at a previous clinique. The right eye was now operated on with perfect success.

8. Miss S. C., aged 15. Strabismus, which was successfully operated on.

9. Miss M. G., aged 22, with cynanche tonsillaris. The causes, symptoms and treatment of this malady were clearly explained.

10. A child of Mr. I. G., aged 12 months, with talipes varus of both feet. The operation for the removal of this deformity was deferred to next Saturday.

11. Mr. S. W., aged 76, with hydrocele of 10 years' standing. The operation for the radical cure of this affection was performed in a mode which at once fulfilled the indications, and obviated the great source of danger in such operations—infiltration of the cellular tissue. An incision an inch and a half long was made into the scrotum; the tunica vaginalis testis was then punctured, the effusion evacuated, and a stimulating fluid injected. The injection employed was tinct. iodine one part, to six parts of water. The diagnostic marks of this affection were very clearly pointed out.

12. Miss M. B., aged 15, from the country. This was a case of strabismus, the operation for which was successfully performed. J. R.

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## DR. WEBSTER'S INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

SINCE Geneva Medical College has become known and taken its position among the standard schools of the United States, it is natural that the medical public should wish an acquaintance with those to whom its destiny, for weal or for woe, is entrusted. When we first received the pamphlet which has called forth these observations, it was supposed to be the introductory lecture of Dr. Webster, the professor of chemistry in the institution for medical instruction in this city. This is by no means strange, since he opened the course in Boston, a few weeks ago, and his discourse was so highly spoken of, that some have probably been waiting in full hope and expectation of its publication. The manuscript, however, is presumed to be in the learned author's desk; and the one so prim and neatly printed, to which we have above alluded, is by another Dr. Webster, a light of science in the West, whose personal influence and usefulness will favorably compare with the accomplishments, literary industry and perseverance in the pursuits of science, of his namesake of the East. James Webster, M.D., holds the chair of Anatomy at Geneva. When the present course of lectures commenced, a few weeks since, the introductory delivered by this gentleman was so much admired, that permission was sought to put it in a form to be accessible to others. Like a sensible man, he gratified the applicants. But the Professor must be permitted to speak for himself.

"But little more than half a century since, and the place we occupy was a howling wilderness, tenanted only by the wild beast of the forest, and peopled by a savage race, over the remembrance of whose wrongs we pay the tribute of a tear, as we track their flight in characters of blood, from the wigwams of their fathers, the altars of their sires, and their happy hunting-grounds, to find a refuge beyond the haunts of civilization, where they may again assemble around their council-fires, undisturbed by the intrusion of the pale face. Touching but incidentally upon this topic, memories of the recent past crowd upon us in rapid succession, and the mighty revolution which has here been effected within the life-time of man, tells, in characters of living light, the glorious destiny which is reserved for this favored region of our happy land. And now, therefore, whilst the ear can almost catch as it fades in the distance, the dying echo of the moccasin tread of the last of the Senecas, imagination carries us back to that period of our history, when the wild notes of war were borne upon the breeze, and re-echoed from the mountain glen; when the martial tramp of the war-horse, and the shrill click of the Indian's rifle, told here of contention, of struggling, and of death."

After the introduction of a few further historical recollections of western New York, and appropriate observations in regard to the origin of the school he is addressing, he strikes off boldly with a new theme.

"In these days of self-adulation, when every year brings us intelligence in the form of introductory lectures, from what are represented as

the *special* seats of learning and science—whose authors spend their brief introductory hour to laud their own exploits, or praise their own fitness for the place and station—surely an humble teacher in a country medical school may say a few words, complimentary to his colleagues, without risking the charge of ‘o’erstepping the modesty of nature.’”

He then introduces the names of his colleagues, Drs. Hadley and De-lamater, and without circumlocution speaks just what he feels in respect to them, viz., that they are hardly equalled, and the inference is that they are never excelled. From our personal intercourse and former official connection with one of them, we can cordially acquiesce in the sentiment. Finally, the discourse possesses one grand feature which might be copied to great advantage by those prolix professors, of sleepy fame all through Christendom, who never find a convenient stopping place. In this instance, certainly, Dr. Webster positively closed, and in reasonable time, too, and yet left nothing unsaid which could have materially improved the discourse. Before closing, we are unwilling to deny the reader a single extract, illustrative of Dr. Webster's refined and exalted views of professional duty and acquirements.

“In our day—in the days of Peter Parley, when Hume and Smollett, Locke and Newton, and Copernicus and Kepler, are remembered only by name—when ‘learning made easy’ might be an appropriate motto for some of our schools, I am aware that I touch on dangerous ground, when I question the fallibility of our laws and our law-givers; but neither my connection with an institution which justly prides herself upon her advantages, nor any feeling of mock-modesty, can prevent me from expressing freely my sentiments in relation to a subject of so much moment to the public weal. An apprenticeship of six years is considered a short period to form a good and skilful mechanic—whilst by the modern high-pressure system (thanks to the wisdom of our Legislature), three years, eight months of which shall be devoted to collegiate exercises, are deemed amply sufficient to make a doctor! Yes, that's the phrase, to make a doctor.

“Well, then, at the end of this probation, many of our young men leave the precincts of the college vainly imagining that their education is complete, and that they are prepared at once successfully to encounter disease in all its varied forms. It is true, I am aware, that there are others of more liberal and expanded minds, who feel their own weakness, and toil ceaselessly by day and by night to make up for their acknowledged deficiency. Now, however, too often begins the struggle without sufficient preparation, for what will yield “immediate profit.” Gentlemen, there is something radically wrong here—the profession is ennobling in its influence, yet I have known an individual, I will not dignify him with the appellation of a man, sit by a patient, when nature cried aloud in her utmost agony for that assistance which he could render, but which was denied, until the dollars and cents were meted out to him! Let me tell you, the very moment you begin to prostitute the noble ends of your sacred calling, merely to the base purposes of ‘profit,’ you sacrifice all the generous aspirations of your manhood—you become callous to all the finer and better feelings of human nature; careless alike of human suffering, and reckless of human life. If, then, any of you come here solely for purposes of ‘profit’ hereafter, in God's name, I say, turn back. Agriculture, mechanics, commerce, all invite you to the shrine of Mammon; but this is not the field for you—it is a field only

for the exercise of all the benevolent affections; it is a field for the exhibition of zeal in the promotion of science, and tender sympathy for others' sufferings; it is a field, the proper cultivation of which will yield you a rich and luxuriant harvest, in an approving conscience, for time and for eternity."

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*National Institute for the Promotion of Science.*—A circular is abroad, inviting the attention of scientific men in the United States to the subject of a general meeting for the promotion of science. There is a prospect, therefore, of some concentration of forces, which has long been wanted. Every attempt, thus far, has been abortive. The physicians, the geologists, &c., have each exerted themselves to organize a national society, but fell short of the attainment. Dropping all other interests, the geologists have united in a body, and brought into being an association that is already honorable to the country and to the progress of knowledge in the new world. We hope that the efforts now making will finally result in the formation of an institution analogous, in character and design, to the British Association. It should not be exclusive—not the instrument of a few men to rise into distinction by the labor of others: but it should call in the aid of every order of talent, and show that universal good is the steadfast pursuit of all its members.

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*Medical Students at Yale College.*—There was a class of fifty-two students in the last printed catalogue. In course of conversation, not long since, with Dr. Knight, the well-known professor of surgery, in the medical department of Yale College, he incidentally remarked that the medical institution of Connecticut was really educating no more professional men than were needed in the State, to keep pace with the increase of population, and to supply the places of those who died or left the active pursuits of practice. Instead of being ambitious of astonishing the world with the numbers that annually concentrate at New Haven, the policy of the Faculty has been of a higher order, viz., to furnish their friends and neighbors with judicious, well-instructed medical practitioners. This they have done, for no State in the Union has a more unexceptionable and able body of excellent physicians than the Commonwealth of Connecticut.

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*Medical Convention of Ohio.*—A pamphlet, containing the proceedings of the medical convention held at Cincinnati, from the 16th to the 20th of May, with papers selected from those read before that body, has been received. It is full of interest, and we know of no better way of showing the estimation in which it is held, than by republishing, hereafter, such parts of the published papers as are most striking, in a medical point of view, to the profession generally.

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*Boylston Medical Society.*—MR. EDITOR—Sir,—Let me ask, through your pages, if the Boylston Medical Society is entirely extinct. For several past years nothing has been heard of it, and I greatly fear that it has ceased to exist. If this is so, it is much to be regretted. The Society was one calculated to be eminently useful to the students attending the

medical lectures. The members of it had access to a considerable library, and had meetings weekly, at which a dissertation was read, and a debate held on some subject connected with the studies in which they were engaged. It is a matter of some surprise to your correspondent that the Faculty of the College should have allowed so useful a society to decline. But it is still in their power to renovate it. Would they but encourage the students to join it, give them the library for an assembly room, and a donation sufficient to enable them to subscribe to half a dozen medical periodicals, I feel confident that the result would be in the highest degree satisfactory. One fact the students themselves should be informed of, which may influence them somewhat in attempting to restore this ancient institution. Funds are placed in the hands of a medical gentleman of this city, from which are directed by will to be awarded prizes to meritorious dissertations presented by the members of this Society.

AN EX-MEMBER.

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*Hufeland's Enchiridion Medicum.*—MR. EDITOR—Dear Sir,—I observed in your last Medical Journal, a notice of Dr. Hufeland's "*Enchiridion Medicum*," &c., and you remarked that it was "*homœopathical*." In this, you are mistaken—it is an allopathic treatise, and a very good one of that kind. I find much valuable information in the work, and think it worthy of perusal by all medical practitioners. Dr. H. has displayed, in my opinion, much medical literature in regard to the diagnosis and concise views of diseases. It embraces fifty years' experience. You can correct your error if you please.

Yours with sincere respect,

ROBERT CAPEN.

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*Bennington Co. Medical Society.*—Officers of the Bennington Co. (Vt.) Medical Society for the year 1842-3:—Simeon Littlefield, *President*; Abram Locke, *Vice President*; Luther Moseley, *Secretary*; Henry Sheldon and John Cook, *Corresponding Secretaries*; Herman Tucker, *Treasurer*; F. Johnson, H. Sheldon, and L. Moseley, *Censors*; ——— Mason, *Librarian*.

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*Extirpation of the Uterus.*—Drs. Herman and Werneburg, of Pittsburg, Penn., removed nearly the whole uterus a short time since. The patient had a cancerous disease of the organ, that called for vigorous measures, which had existed for two years.

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*Protracted Suckling.*—Mr. Orwin, of Worcester, publishes a case of epilepsy, from protracted lactation, in which the suckling was continued for the unwarrantable period of three years and a quarter. The woman was 27 years old. The worst symptoms of debility at last attended the monstrous proceeding, and several fits of epilepsy were experienced. With great difficulty only was she persuaded to wean the child. The fits became less violent then, and, the pain in the head being reduced, the citrate of iron was afterwards given, and recovery ensued.—*Lon. Lancet*.

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Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Dec. 3, 38.—Males, 21; Females, 17. Stillborn, 2. Of consumption, 4—influenza, 2—fits, 2—lung fever, 3—apoplexy, 1—typhus fever, 2—smallpox, 2—child-bed, 3—old age, 1—teething, 1—accidental, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—infantile, 4—tumor on the breast, 1—stoppage in the bowels, 1—bronchitis, 1—pleurisy, 1—bilious fever, 1—loss of blood, 1—drowned, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—spasms, 1.



## MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

The Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Monday, the 20th day of February, 1843.

Theory and Practice of Physic, by	- - -	WILLIAM SWEETSER, M.D., of New York.
Anatomy and Surgery, by	- - -	EDMUND R. PEASLEE, M.D., of Dart. Coll.
Obstetrics, by	- - -	ESSENER WELLS, M.D.
Chemistry and Materia Medica, by	- - -	PARKER CLEVELAND, M.D.

The Library, containing about 3000 volumes, principally modern works, and the Anatomical Cabinet, are annually increasing.

Every person becoming a member of this institution, is required *previously* to present *satisfactory* evidence of possessing a good moral character.

The amount of fees for the lectures is \$50, payable in advance. Graduation fee, \$10. The lectures continue three months.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the lecture term in May, and at the following Commencement in September.

Brunswick, Nov., 1842.

N. 23.—Stew

PARKER CLEVELAND,

Secretary.

## TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The subscribers, at their rooms in Tremont street, continue to give personal instruction to private pupils as heretofore, in the various branches of medicine, in connection with the practical pursuit of anatomy, and attendance on the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the other opportunities belonging to their school.

Jy 28—copy

JACOB BIGELOW,  
EDWARD REYNOLDS,  
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,  
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

## TO PHYSICIANS AND APOTHECARIES.

J. W. & F. C. WARREN, wholesale and retail Chemists and Druggists, *Central Depot, No. 19 Cornhill*, near Washington street and Dock square, Boston, have selected and imported a very choice selection of Medicines and Chemicals from the well-known establishments of MANDER, WEAVER & MANDER, and others, of England; also all the valuable French and other foreign medical and chemical preparations; in addition to which, they have brought together all the superior American preparations, Magendie's and Dunglison's New Remedies, &c.—the whole including all the recent discoveries in medicine and chemistry from each section of the scientific world. They likewise keep constantly on hand, or supply to order, every variety of Surgical Instrument, &c. Dentists also supplied with superior specimens of all the articles used in their practice. Homœopathic Books and Medicines furnished to order.

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Mh. 16—c3wly

## SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

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Je 1—lamly

## SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

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Je 8—

JOHN C. WARREN,  
GEO. HAYWARD,  
S. D. TOWNSEND. } *Surgeons to Mass. General Hospital.*

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